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SUBJECT Melitopol Airfield

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. The airfield of "elitopol" (46°50'N/35°02'E), Ukrainian S.S.R., was located northwest of the town, just west of the railroad line. When working on the construction of a well [REDACTED] near the airfield, sub-soil water was found at a depth of about 15 meters. No runways or taxiways were seen at the field. 25X1X
2. Wooden buildings, similar to hangars, and two four-story quarters, 16x70 meters, were standing at the southern edge of the field. The quarters were being constructed by a labor battalion composed of soldiers wearing air force insignia on their epaulets. The buildings were nearing completion in December 1949. Hangars with concrete aprons were seen from a distance in the northwestern section of the airfield.
3. One DF station with a DF loop antenna and three radio masts was located north-northeast of the field, about 500 meters east of the railroad line.
4. The airfield was occupied by biplanes and two-engine Douglas aircraft fitted with radial engines and cabin windows. Parachuting was practiced from the biplanes. One man at a time jumped and allowed himself to fall rather far before he opened the parachute. The Douglas aircraft flew in formations of nine or twelve, not more than 20 aircraft being aloft at the same time. The formation usually flew to the south, from where bomb explosions were heard after some time. Three searchlights were seen in operation when night flying was practiced.
5. About 50 men, most of them junior officers, were frequently observed in the courtyard of the air force school in the town. Aircraft models were hanging from the ceiling in one of the class rooms, and two biplanes were parked in the western section of the school area. Eight trucks with boxlike bodies were parked in the northern part of the area. One of these trucks had a mast, 25 meters high, connected to the nearby building by antenna wires.

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